

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 SAM-01

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 IO-10 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05

OC-05 CCO-00 /077 W

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O R 091300Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3716

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4531

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT SPLIT

REF: LISBON 4519

SUMMARY: ANTUNES DOCUMENT IS PICKING UP SUPPORT FROM MILITARY
UNITS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. PRESIDENT IS QUOTED AS SAYING
HE AGREES WITH ALMOST ALL ITS CONTENTS. IT APPEARS NOW THAT
MODERATES INTEND TO ACHIEVE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FROM MILITARY
UNITS AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND FORCE PORTUGUESE STYLE NON-
VIOLENT CONFRONTATION WITH GONCALVES AND HIS COMMUNIST FRIENDS.
END SUMMARY.

1. DIVISIONS WITHIN THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL: WE

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UNDERSTAND THE CURRENT LINEUP IN THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

ON THE QUESTION OF THE ANTUNES DOCUMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

IN FAVOR (11) UNDECIDED OR UNCOMMITTED (6) AGAINST (11)

VASCO LOURENCO COSTA GOMES VASCO GONCALVES

CANTO E CASTRO PINHEIRO AZEVEDO CORVACHO

VICTOR CRESPO MORAIS E SILVA COSTA MARTINS

COSTA NEVES OTELO CARVALHO GRACA E CUNHA

MELO ANTUNES FABIAO GUERREIRO

CHARAIS MARQUES JUNIOR A. CONTREIRAS

PEZARAT CORREIA RAMIRO CORREIA

SOUSA E CASTRO JUDAS

PINHO FREIRE L. MACEDO

PINTO SOARES FERREIRA DE SOUSA

IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT SOME OF THE UNCOMMITTED VOTES WILL EVENTUALLY GO IN FAVOR OF THE ANTUNES DOCUMENT. NAVY CHIEF PINHEIRO AZEVEDO, FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE NOT SIGNING AUTHORIZED ITS CIRCULATION IN THE NAVY. SOARES CLAIMS OTELO IS PRIVATELY IN FAVOR. THE BIG UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME IS WHETHER ROSA COUTINHO AND HIS FACTION WILL SWITCH FROM THEIR SUPPORT FOR GONCALVES. THE REST OF THE PRO-GONCALVES GROUP IS LIKELY TO STICK WITH HIM TO THE BITTER END.

2. LINING UP THE UNITS: WE HAVE BEEN GETTING PRELIMINARY AND FRAGMENTARY REPORTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY REGARDING THE EXTENT OF SUPPORT THE ANTUNES DOCUMENT HAS IN THE MILITARY UNITS. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL THE ORIGINAL SIGNERS ASKED MILITARY PERSONNEL TO MAKE THEIR POSITION KNOWN WITHIN TWO TO FOUR DAYS. CIRCULATION OF THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN IMPEDED, IN PART BECAUSE OF THE NATURAL DIFFICULTIES OF GETTING OFFICIAL VERSIONS AROUND THE COUNTRYSIDE AND IN PART BY THREATS FROM PRO-GONCALVES SUPPORTERS TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST PERSONNEL WHO CIRCULATE THE DOCUMENT. MILITARY LINEUP IS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) NORTHERN MILITARY REGION VOTED IN BLOC TO SUPPORT THE DOCUMENT

(B) CENTRAL MILITARY REGION VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE DOCUMENT IN A PLENARY SESSION

(C) SOUTHERN MILITARY REGION HAS NOT YET ACTED DUE TO PROBLEMS IN GETTING THE DOCUMENT TO THE UNITS

(D) COMMANDO REGIMENT WILL HAVE PLENARY SESSION ON THE DOCUMENT ON MONDAY AND IS EXPECTED TO SUPPORT

(E) ENGINEERING REGIMENT ONE (LEFT DOMINATED) REFUSED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CIRCULATE THE DOCUMENT

(F) MAFRA INFANTRY SCHOOL, CASCAIS ANTIAIRCRAFT UNIT, AND THE QUELUZ OPERATIONAL INFANTRY REGIMENT HAVE VOTED 70 TO 90 PERCENT IN FAVOR.

3. PRESIDENT'S POSITION: IN A "CLARIFICATION" ISSUED

AUG. 8 AND CLEARED WITH THE PRESIDENT BEFOREHAND VASCO LOURENCO SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT, WHILE NOT

CONCURRING IN THE WAY THE DOCUMENT WAS ISSUED HAD NOT
REPUDIATED IT--AS INCORRECTLY REPORTED IN THE CERTAIN PRESS
ARTICLES. LOURENCO STATED THAT IN FACT THE PRESIDENT AGREED
"WITH ALMOST THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT."

4. PARTY REACTIONS: BOTH THE PPD AND THE PS HAVE COME OUT
WITH STRONG PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR THE DOCUMENT.
THE PPD SAID THAT IT WAS "SIGN OF HOPE" AND THE PS CALLED
IT "AN EVENT OF FIRST IMPORTANCE IN THE LIFE OF THE NATION."

5. COMMENT: THE MODERATES' STRATEGY NOW APPEARS TO BE TO
PICK UP OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FROM THE MILITARY AND THE
DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PARTIES IN ORDER TO FORCE A SHOWDOWN
WITH GONCALVES AND HIS COMMUNIST SUPPORTERS. WE EXPECT CONFRONT-
ATION TO BE WORKED OUT IN CHARACTERISTICALLY PORTUGUESE NON-
VIOLENT FASHION. TIMING OF THIS MOVE WILL DEPEND ON SPEED WITH
WHICH THE MODERATES CAN LINE UP SUPPORT AND ON WHETHER COPCON
COMMANDER OTELO WILL COMMIT HIMSELF AND COPCON PUBLICALLY TO
THE MODERATES. AT PRESENT PACE, THIS PROCESS WILL TAKE SEVERAL
DAYS.
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